

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Engineering Division, OC

SPM 7-573  
DATE: 20 May 1957

FROM : Chief, Supplemental Programs Division, OC

SUBJECT: Proposals for Development of Miniaturized Data Recorder

REF : (a) Proposal from [ ] dated April 15, 1957  
(b) Proposal from [ ] dated April 18, 1957

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1. The referenced proposals have been examined and found acceptable in terms meeting the specifications and methods of accomplishment. The problem of obtaining a sub-miniature recorder capable of performing the required functions and meeting operational requirements has been and continues to be the outstanding stumbling block [ ]. Numerous commercial items (Minifon, Dictet, Midgetape, etc.) have been utilized in modified form to meet operational requirements; however, none have met our needs to a satisfactory degree or can be expected to do so. Frustration has been encountered in anticipating a usable item being realized from the joint efforts of TSS and the Air Force to develop the Edwards recorder. After two years of effort and the expenditure of considerable funds, it is increasingly apparent that any recorder produced under this effort will be virtually useless [ ] purposes. The above dictates an extensive effort on our part to obtain a satisfactory solution to the specific requirements [ ]

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2. Examination and comparison of the referenced proposals discloses various approaches by both bidders, to specific problems, all having their own merits. For example, the considerations made by [ ] of using the vacated tape supply space for takeup or the process of recording without unwinding tape, in addition to meeting requirements on the mini-ature recorder, would establish new techniques applicable to future recorder requirements. The synchronous motor drive by [ ] is a definite answer to speed variation problems now encountered. [ ] flat dc motor would provide many advantages in recorders requiring higher storage capacity (i.e., 24 hour) in a flat package. These and other proposed approaches and the awareness that this Division has of the complexity of the problem prompts us to recommend that both proposals be accepted and a parallel development be established by both organizations. In addition,

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we suggest that both  be advised of this parallel develop-25X1  
ment and of our intention of continuing with production of the recorder  
accepted on the basis of performance and completion date. This procedure  
will, of course, require the approval of the Director of Communications  
which the undersigned will assist in obtaining.

3. It is requested that contractual negotiations be expedited to  
accomplish the above in time to commit FY 1957 funds. Funds in the  
amount of \$268,620.78 are available under the 07 category in Allotment  
#7-7912-50-600 to accomplish the above.

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Distribution:

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